

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 02478 211340Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PER-03 MMO-04 SCA-01 /021 W
-----220417Z 043801 /15

R 210930Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 344

UNCLAS BELGRADE 2478

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: APER CFED YO
SUBJ: LOCAL EMPLOYEES: REQUEST TO FILL POSITION

1. EMBASSY REQUESTS AUTHORITY TO FILL LOCAL POSITION
NO. C-7 IN CONSULAR SECTION WHICH HAS BEEN VACANT SINCE
JANUARY AS THE RESULT OF A RESIGNATION.

2. DRAFT INSPECTOR'S REPORT RECOMMENDS THAT POSITION NOT
BE FILLED AND THAT ANOTHER LOCAL EMPLOYEE BE CROSS-
TRAINED TO SPEND HALF-TIME ON VISAS AND HALF-TIME ON FEDERAL
BENEFITS
WORK.

3. EMBASSY STRONGLY DISAGREES WITH INSPECTORS' DRAFT
RECOMMENDATION. POSITION C-7 WAS CREATED ONLY TWO YEARS
AGO BECAUSE CONSULATE WAS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN LOCAL CLAIMS TAKING
FOR SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION, A PROGRAM BEGUN IN THE
FALL OF 1975. EMBASSY CANNOT NOW SIMPLY DROP COMMITMENT
MADE THEN TO SSA; AND WITHOUT TWO FULL TIME EMPLOYEES IN THE
FEDERAL BENEFITS UNIT WE CANNOT CONTINUE TO PROPERLY
IMPLEMENT THIS PROGRAM. MAY 1976 ON-SIGHT INSPECTION BY
SSA CONFIRMED NEED FOR TWO LOCAL EMPLOYEES. DESPITE
TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FROM OTHER LOCAL EMPLOYEES IN CONSULAR
SECTION, UNIT IS BEHIND IN PROCESSING CHANGES OF ADDRESS,
RETURNING CHECKS TO TREASURY DEPARTMENT, ETC., AND DESPITE
BEST EFFORTS OF OTHER EMPLOYEE IN UNIT, WILL GET FURTHER
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AND FURTHER BEHIND.

4. EMBASSY DOES NOT BELIEVE IT POSSIBLE AT PRESENT TIME
TO TRAIN ANOTHER CONSULAR SECTION EMPLOYEE TO WORK PART-
TIME IN FEDERAL BENEFITS UNIT AS RECOMMENDED BY INSPECTORS.
ESPECIALLY BECAUSE OF A CLAIMS TAKING PROGRAM, EMPLOYEE
NEEDS TO BECOME EXPERT IN RATHER COMPLICATED SET OF

REGULATIONS. ONCE SOME PHYSICAL CHANGES IN CONSULAR SECTION
ALSO RECOMMENDED BY INSPECTORS ARE MADE, WE WILL SEE
WHETHER IT IS POSSIBLE TO CUT LOCAL VISA STAFF.

5. EMBASSY BELIEVES POSITION C-7 SHOULD BE FILLED AS
SOON AS POSSIBLE. YORK

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